

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 02, 2015

The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

We write to you regarding the REAL ID Act and our desire for increased clarity as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) continues to implement this law.

As you are no doubt aware, compliance with the REAL ID Act has caused large difficulties for state governments. In fact, it is telling that not one state was able to meet the original statutory deadline of May 2008 that was part of the REAL ID Act. Since then, the Department has extended many compliance deadlines, and has granted extensions to many states.

The difficulty for states and citizens, however, will only increase if they are required to comply before the earliest stated beginning of Phase 4 enforcement. Under the terms of the REAL ID Act, once Phase 4 is fully enforced, citizens from non-compliant states will no longer be able to use their state's driver's license to board a domestic flight.

We are aware that under the Department's most recent guidance Phase 4 will begin *no earlier than* January 1, 2016. Furthermore, we also know that Phase 4 is dependent on the Department evaluating the first three phases. Upon completion of that evaluation, the Department will then release a more detailed enforcement schedule. While a law this large requires flexibility, there is uncertainty among the states on when DHS' evaluation of the first three phases will take place. If the Department plans to begin enforcement at the earliest possible moment, on January 1, many states, including ours, will be wholly unable to comply, resulting in widespread difficulties for constituents.

Therefore, we ask that you update Congress on when the Department will be evaluating the first three phases of the REAL ID Act. Having a clear sense of the Department's approach in this matter will help state governments and their Congressional delegations in their compliance preparations. Your response will also be valuable information for the many constituents that have contacted our offices with concerns about Phase 4.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.

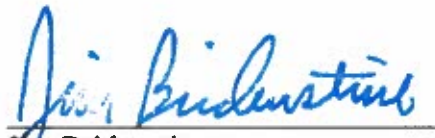
Sincerely,



Frank D. Lucas  
Member of Congress



Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



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Jim Bridenstine  
Member of Congress



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Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress



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Steve Russell  
Member of Congress